

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-24. (canceled).

25. (previously presented): A spark plug comprising:

a central electrode;

an insulating member disposed on the outside of said central electrode;

a main metal shell disposed on the outside of said insulating member, the main metal shell having a base portion;

a ground electrode disposed opposite to said central electrode such that a spark discharge gap is formed; and

a ring-shaped gasket to be fitted to the base portion of said main metal shell,

wherein a surface of the gasket is coated with a chromate film including trivalent chrome, and

wherein said chromate film contains chrome components in which a ratio of the trivalent chrome is 95% or more

26. (previously presented): The spark plug according to claim 25, wherein said chromate film has a thickness of 0.2 μm to 0.5 μm .

27. (previously presented): The spark plug according to claim 25, wherein said chromate film substantially contains no hexavalent chrome.

28. (canceled).

29. (previously presented): The spark plug according to claim 25, wherein the content of sodium components contained in said chromate film is 2 wt % to 7 wt %.

30. (previously presented): The spark plug according to claim 25, wherein said gasket is coated with a zinc-plated film as a base metal layer for said chromate film.

31. (previously presented): The spark plug according to claim 25, wherein when chapter five "neutral salt water spray test" of anti-corrosion test of plating conforming to JIS H8502 is performed, time for which white rust appears by about 20% or more of the overall surface caused from corrosion of the zinc-plated film is 40 hours or longer.

32. (previously presented): The spark plug according to claim 25, wherein when heating at 200°C, in the atmosphere for 30 minutes is performed and chapter five "neutral salt water

spray test” of anti-corrosion test of plating conforming to JIS H8502 is performed, time for which white rust appears by about 20% or more of the overall surface caused from corrosion of the zinc-plated film is 40 hours or longer.